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1962/10/22

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

SS

Info

FROM: Bogota

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 397, October 22, 6 p.m.

NIACT

ACTION DEPARTMENT 397; INFORMATION NIACT USUN 7

ELITE

EYES ONLY

DEPARTMENT PASS POLADS CINCARIB AND CINCLANT

USUN EYES ONLY STEVENSON

Following receipt circular telegram 709, made immediate appointment with Gonzalez Fernandez, Secretary General Presidency, in lieu of Foreign Minister as promising more immediate and responsive action. Within one hour following discussion (paragraph three circular telegram 700), guards at residence and Chancery doubled, all military leaves cancelled, and similar precautionary moves instituted throughout country.

At 4 p.m. EST met with President Valencia (risen from sick bed for purpose), Gonzalez Fernandez, and following five Ministers: Foreign Affairs, War, Government, Finance and Communications. First read President's letter and text TV speech in Spanish approximation followed by discussion points five through nine of circular telegram 700.

Valencia said he would call full cabinet meeting immediately following President's TV speech and expected have definitive written reply to President's letter ready to present me by noon tomorrow. Meanwhile, with full assurance backing

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-2- 397, October 22, 6 p.m., from: Bogota

of Ministers and people, wished make following observations.

1) Colombia would live up to spirit and letter of its international and hemispherical commitments.

2) Despite fact that Zuleta Angel presently in Mexico under instruction's COAS, would direct him to return Washington immediately.

3) Felt with Monteiro and Sanzr that COAS should declare itself as organ of consultation and agreed should continue function as such until threat visibly diminished.

4) Thanked me for offer of riot control equipment and would have Minister War urgently ascertain needs. (Minister Ruiz indicated would control urban riots without too much difficulty though might well need additional and fresh stocks tear gas. Pointed out, however, that potential Communist guerrilla menace much more difficult handle, and referred specifically to talks with Generals Omeara and Bogart re urgent need additional helicopter carrying capacity.)

5) Finally (and most forcefully), Valencia in presence Ministers assured me categorically we would find Colombia a strong, resolute, determined and unwavering ally in this crisis that was honored to count herself within group of free, democratic nations led by the US.

FREEMAN

MRJ

Note: Relayed to POLAD, CINCARIB AND POLAD CINCLANT 10/22/62.

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